Nishizawa does not teach distinguishing the areas used for containing semiconductor devices and areas used for containing pixel electrodes, as specifically claimed in the applicant's claims 1 and 2, upon which each of the other claims depend.

The Office action asserts that Nishizawa teaches ***pixel electrodes*** (2) arranged in an area that facilitates flexing, which is identified as label #10 of Nishizawa's FIG. 3(b) by the Examiner. The applicant respectfully traverses this assertion, because Nishizawa clearly teaches that reference item 2 corresponds to ***wires*** 2 that interconnect the pixels of Nishzawa's display, and are ***not*** pixel electrodes. As is known in the art, and consistent with the applicant's use of the term, pixel electrodes correspond to the elements that effect the visual display of the picture element (pixel). In an LCD, the pixel electrode controls the opacity of the liquid crystal material above the electrode; in an emissive display, the pixel electrode effects the emission of energy from the region above the electrode. Nishizawa's wires 2 do not correspond to the conventional definition of a pixel electrode.

Nishizawa's elements 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, are identified by Nishizawa as "luminous bodies arranged in a matrix", and includes light-emitting diodes. The applicant respectfully maintains that Nishizawa's luminous bodies 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, must, by definition, include pixel electrodes, as the term pixel electrode is used in the art, and as used in the applicant's disclosure. The applicant further notes that Nishizawa teaches a thicker substrate beneath the luminous bodies 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, so that flexing does ***not*** occur at the luminous bodies 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a.

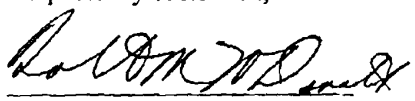
Because Nishizawa's luminous bodies 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a contain Nishizawa's pixel electrodes, and Nishizawa teaches flexing between the bodies 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, Nishizawa specifically teaches flexing ***between*** the pixel electrodes, whereas the applicant specifically claims distinguishing the areas occupied by the pixel electrodes and configuring the substrate so that flexing occurs ***at*** the areas of pixel electrodes.

Because Nishizawa specifically teaches flexing the substrate between the pixel electrodes, and the applicant specifically claims flexing the substrate at the pixel electrodes, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Nishizawa, claims 4

and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nishizawa, and claims 7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nishizawa and Shanks.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the present application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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On 15 October 2003 By